

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2007
Teleconference Media Center, IGCS, 402 W. Washington, Indianapolis, IN

Voting Members Present: Adams County – John Freidt Cass County – Mercedes Brugh DNR – Steve Morris Gibson County – N. Sherrell Marginet Huntington County – Mike Mettler Knox County – Shane Cooper Miami County – Ken Einselen Parke County – Keith Fleckenstein (alternate) Posey County – Marianna (Weinzapfel) Hassenbrock (proxy) Sullivan County – John Gettinger Tippecanoe County – Norman (Lucky) Neiburger Vermillion County – Jim McFall Vermillion County – Diann C. McIntosh (alternate) Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate) Wabash County – Ernest Passwater Warren County – Louise Jewell	Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy: Fountain County Jay County Allen County Carroll County
Proxies Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel to Marianna (Weinzapfel) Hassenbrock Wells County - Keith Huffman to Mike Mettler Parke County - Steve Luther to John Gettinger (President)	Non-Voting Members Not Present DNR-DHPA IDEM INDOT
Non-Voting Members Present: Brian Blackford – Indiana Office of Tourism	Guests: Ray Irvin - INDOT
Commission and DNR Staff Present: Ron James – WRHCC Executive Director Jennifer Hubbard – DNR Administration Pool	

CALL TO ORDER

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. John asked everyone to introduce themselves and the county or organization they represent.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

John Gettinger asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 13th or November 8th meeting minutes. Mercedes Brugh made a motion to approve both meeting's minutes. Marianna Hassenbrock seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Gettinger reported that Sullivan County had the first county chapter meeting for the Banks of the Wabash on November 20th. He also attended a trails meeting in Logansport on December 19th. John announced the first meeting for the Paddlefest at New Harmony is on February 1st. John will be on a trip to Washington D.C. from February 26th through 28th on a lobbying trip for the RC&D's of Indiana. He also plans to attend the next Indiana Rivers Rally planning meeting that will be on January 24th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ron James posted a six-page invitation/information brochure on the June 7-9, 2007 Indiana Rivers Rally, noting another upcoming organizing meeting (1/24). Ron reported attending a number of meetings, including another of the 'Towpath Trail' Work Group, which is considering becoming a chapter of the Banks of the Wabash, Inc., to use the latter's existing 501(c)3 status. He will also attend the "River Odyssey" art opening in Richmond on the 18th of January. Ron announced he is still using the documentary of "The Wabash: Life on the 'Bright White' River" and displayed it at an ACRES Land Trust meeting where it went over well.

SPEAKER

Steve Morris introduced Ray Irvin as the Greenways & Bikeways Director for INDOT. Ray spoke about INDOT's role in the development and implementation of the *Hoosiers on the Move*, the new Indiana state trails, greenways and bikeways plan. Ray addressed a number of questions from commission members regarding how the Wabash River Heritage Corridor will be incorporated into the state visionary trails system. Mike Mettler moved the commission send a letter to the INDOT commissioner to request that Ray Irvin be appointed to serve as INDOT's representative to the WRHCC. Steve Morris seconded and motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT (see attached)

Steve Morris of DNR distributed a commission financial report. Marianna Hassenbrock moved to accept the financial report. Keith Ruble seconded and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating committee – 2007 officer elections

The nominating committee recommended re-electing the current officers for the commission. Mike Mettler moved to close nominations. Keith Ruble seconded the motion. John Gettinger was elected as president and Lucky Neiburger was elected as vice president.

Water Trail

Mike Mettler reported they finalized maps one and six, but the maps have not been printed. The maps will be in PDF format on the website. He asked people to look at the local contact information on the maps and provide any necessary revisions for the next printings. Ron James stated that he is getting estimates to produce the revised bridge signs. Mercedes Brugh motioned to spend up \$3,200 to purchase fifty (50) 18" x 60" bridge signs. Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Education

Ron James noted that he will meet with the Environmental Educators Association of Indiana board about assistance with our Discover the River 'Bright White' classroom project at their upcoming meeting January 28th.

Banks of the Wabash

John Gettinger announced that the Banks of the Wabash, Inc., is doing well. John is attempting to organize chapters of the Banks in each county. Ron James reported about ongoing efforts to get much needed updates to the Banks' website.

Legislative

Mercedes Brugh reminded everyone how important it was to contact his or her legislators. All of the river commissioners in attendance reported on the status of their legislative contact efforts. The Indiana Conservation Alliance 'Conservation Day' set for January 23rd was announced as an opportunity to visit legislators during the session. Attendance was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

River Odyssey

Ron James reported that The River Odyssey opens on January 18th in Richmond. Ron reminded the commission of the August 25th auction of the entire collection in Hamilton County. Ron stated that the collection would be in Muncie in March and Columbus in May or June.

Artists Recognition

There has been no word yet on the Person of Distinction art award nomination for David Dale and Jim Faulkner, the River Odyssey artists.

Logo Embroidery

Ron James displayed a sample of the embroidered logo. He stated that he needs to place the bid for uniform shirts. Lucky Neiburger motioned to purchase as many inexpensive, Royal blue shirts with logo as possible under \$500 and Mercedes Brugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Living Laboratory, River Vision org.: Tippecanoe planning effort

Lucky Neiburger reported that he is a part of the Blue Ribbon Commission in Tippecanoe County that is meeting monthly with high-powered officials. One area of focus is the monitoring the water quality in the Wabash River. The Blue Ribbon Commission is trying to identify funding opportunities that would extend beyond Tippecanoe County. Lucky announced that current initiative will probably affect the status of the Wabash River Parkway Commission.

W. R. H.C. Community & River Road signs – design, bid out authorization

Ron James discussed the color scheme for the community signs. Mercedes Brugh motioned to purchase 50 full colored (five colors) eighteen by eighteen inch square signs. Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

RiversRally 07 attendance & formation of planning committee for Wabash social/room

Ron James proposed to sponsor a social room where they could provide appetizers to have people come and socialize at the Indiana Rivers Rally in June. The rally planning committee has committed to raising half of the cost of the rally by selling sponsorships. Ron James discussed the cost of a sponsorship. It was decided to make a final decision on Indiana Rivers Rally sponsorship at the March WRHCC meeting. Educational proposals for the Rivers Rally are due by the last day of January of 2007.

NEW BUSINESS**Select articles for next *Reflections* and set deadline for submission**

Ron James received an article from Vermillion County. Steve Morris will write an article about the state trails plan and Ron James will do a promo for RiversRally. Articles due by 2/28/07.

National River Rally date and designated Wabash representative

John Gettinger pointed out the Commission policy of sending a Wabash representative to the annual National River Rally. Mike Mettler, 2006 attendee, volunteered to reprise. The River Rally is taking place May 18 to 22nd at the Columbia River Gorge in Washington. All members are to check their availability and consider volunteering. Tabled to the March meeting

Video Listing Catalog of Heritage Sites

John Gettinger proposed partnering with a production company, such as FYI (which produced the Wabash documentary), to make another video about heritage or points of interest along the Wabash corridor. John asked the members to think of ways that such a video could be financed and its uses, for discussion at the March meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

N. Sherrell Marginet talked about the State of Indiana's 1965 production of a vinyl record to celebrate the 1966 sesquicentennial. The record contained information about the Wabash River and its role in the creation of the state, as well as the general heritage of the State of Indiana. He asked the commission to keep an eye out for this record.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., March 14, 2007, Teleconference Media Center, IGCS, Indianapolis, Indiana.